

Towards a National Service of Communion

On **Feb. 4-6** of this year, at the Center of the Community of the City of the Lord in Tempe, Arizona, fifty-four leaders of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in the United States gathered for a time of discernment. These leaders represented various National Service Committees - the NSC, the Hispanic Committee, the Haitian Council, the Filipino Alliance and the Korean National Committee. Also represented were members of the Association of Diocesan Liaisons, and representatives of various Covenant communities - including Alleluia, City of the Lord, the Sword of the Spirit and Presentation Ministries. Other prominent national Charismatic Renewal leaders joined them.

The purpose of this Gathering was to discern how those touched by baptism in the Holy Spirit in the United States can cooperate with Pope Francis's initiative called CHARIS. This past December, the Holy Father proclaimed CHARIS as the one service for the Charismatic Renewal in the Church; CHARIS will begin to operate on **Pentecost of this year, June 9, 2019**.

The Holy Father has named the first International Council for CHARIS - 18 people from various streams of the Renewal. This Council will operate for three years - when an international assembly will then elect a new membership for three-year terms. The two representatives from the United States - Bishop Peter Smith and Andrés Arango - also joined the Tempe Gathering.

The CHARIS initiative has several concrete goals, including the spread of baptism in the Holy Spirit, the unity of the Renewal, and ecumenical sharing. Prophetic messages, Bible passages and words of encouragement from the Holy Spirit urged the leaders in Tempe to put away all fear of change; to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's move of new evangelization; and to work together with the Church so that Jesus may encounter and empower His people.

One of the directives for CHARIS is that every country should establish a **National Service of Communion**. This is a body of charismatic leaders who represent the entire nation. At the conclusion of the Tempe Gathering this year, the delegates made some practical decisions:

1. The **2020 Gathering** would be designed to establish the National Service of Communion for the United States;
2. A **Task Force** has been nominated to bring about this desire. The **Task Force** has twelve members:
from the National Service Committee: Ron Riggins & Walter Matthews
from the Haitian & Hispanic Committees:
Kathia Arango; Marie-Josée Joseph & Msgr. Joseph Malagrecia
from the Filipino Alliance: Bob Canton
from the Association of Diocesan Liaisons:..... Fr. Anthony Ouellette
from Covenant Communities: Chuck Hornsby
Ecumenical representative:..... Paul Dinolfo
Youth representative:..... Fausto Franco
CHARIS Council members:..... Bishop Peter Smith & Andrés Arango
3. The **Task Force** should plan the 2020 Gathering; evolve a plan to set up the National Service of Communion; seek to invite even more representatives to the 2020 Gathering; choose a representative for the Continental meetings of CHARIS; and further the work of unity in cooperation with CHARIS.

*Please join with us in prayer, asking Jesus to pour His Spirit on the Church
and on this current of grace in the United States.*

February 6, 2019